

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-34 and 39-49 were pending in this Application. Claim 45 was withdrawn. Applicant traverses the restriction requirement.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-10, 12-19, 21-23, 26, 29, 32-34, 39, 40 and 44 were allowed.

Claims 11, 15, 20, 24, 27, 28, 30-43 and 46-49 stand rejected.

Rejections

Claims 11, 30 and 43 stand rejected over Okubo et al under §103.

Claims 20, 31, 41 and 42 stand rejected under §103 as unpatentable over Allen in view of Holder.

Claims 24, 25 and 28 stand rejected under §103 as unpatentable over Okubo et al.

Claim 27 stand rejected under §103 as unpatentable over Okubo et al.

Claims 46-48 stand rejected under §103 as unpatentable over Allen et al.

Claim 49 stand rejected under §103 as unpatenable over Allen in view of Holder.

Claim Cancellations/Amendments

Applicant has herein canceled certain of the rejected claims without prejudice, thus rendering the pertinent rejections moot. Canceled in this Amendment are Claims 11, 20, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 43, 46.

Applicant has herein amended Claims 31, 41, 47, 48 and 49.

Patentable Subject Matter

Each of amended independent Claims 31, 41 and 49 has herein been amended essentially identically by adding subject matter disclosed in the specification at paragraphs 46 and 47. As stated in paragraph 46 “Further, the lighting plan ensures that extraneous light does not inadvertently light the screen 105, and thereby reduce image contrast. These aspects of the lighting design are achieved with a series of overhead lighting fixtures 120 arrayed on the ceiling of the room...”.

Further in paragraph 47 relating to the lighting fixtures 120 “This provides strong diffused lighting the participants, while not directing lighting toward the screen 105, creating a shadow zone directly in front of the screen 105.”

Hence, this feature has the advantage of use of indirect lighting in conjunction with the display screen in the room to direct the indirect lighting away from the screen and to illuminate the participants and contents of the room rather than to reduce the contrast of the screen display.

No such feature is believed to be shown in any of the cited references. Certain of the references do not include video conferencing, and those that do are not specific about the use of lighting in conjunction with the display screen in the room. The Examiner does cite Knust to show indirect lighting however, in Knust, there is no screen but only cameras are present. This is because the area being illuminated is a gambling table rather than a video conferencing room. Holder, while it discloses indirect lighting fixtures, is not directed to video conferencing or any similar application.

Hence, none of the references show what is disclosed in the above paragraphs 46-47 and now the subject matter of the above independent claims, which thereby distinguish thereover.

Thereby, Claim 31 as amended now recites “a plurality of overhead indirect lighting fixtures which do not direct light towards the display system and create a shadow zone in front of the display system, thereby increasing image contrast of the display system.” No such use of

indirect lighting is even suggested in any of the references, alone or in combination, and Claim 31 thereby distinguishes thereover.

Each of independent Claims 41 and 49 has been amended essentially identically in this regard to Claim 31 and hence also distinguishes over the references. Note that the earlier amendatory subject matter has been deleted from Claim 49 herewith.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that each of amended Claims 31, 41 and 49 is now allowable.

Claims 47 and 48 have been amended to better conform to the amended base claims. The amendments to Claims 47 and 48 are thus not for purpose of patentability and not intended to narrow these claims.

Therefore, all pending claims which now are Claims 1-3, 5, 8-10, 12-19, 21-23, 26, 29, 31-34, 39-42, and 47-49 are allowable and allowance thereof requested. If the Examiner contemplates other action he is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, all presently pending claims are believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections and pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing (new) docket no. 590282001500.

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Respectfully submitted,

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